



SEATTLE PARKS
AND RECREATION

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Summer 2004

WALKING THE TALK

Note from Ken Bounds

Seattle Parks and Recreation staff continue to do good work and to care for our environment. In 2003, the department captured that good work quantitatively in our first formal Environmental Management System (EMS). EMS is a systematic approach to improving an organization's environmental performance, and other City departments are creating their plans, too. The centerpiece of our EMS is a Department-wide work plan that elevates environmental priorities identified by staff. Benefits of EMS include better coordination among work units, dept-wide tracking and reporting, cost savings and reduced liability. And by being environmentally responsible we advance our organizational mission.

A few of the many 2003 EMS Accomplishments included:

- **Energy Conservation:** Energy conservation upgrades were made by our Electric Shop at the Amy Yee Tennis Center and are estimated to save \$35 - \$49K per year.
- **Forest Restoration:** Staff worked with volunteers to clear more than 27 acres of forest lands of invasive plants and 11 of these acres were replanted with native plants.
- **Pesticide Reduction:** The rate of pesticide reduction for the Park Resources Districts and Horticulture was 49%, well above the 30% goal.
- **Youth Programming:** Programs such as STEP, TREC, Service Learning, Jr. Naturalists and the partnership with EarthCorps and the National Park Service provided "hands-on" stewardship programming to hundreds of diverse teens throughout Seattle.
- **Pollution Prevention:** The *Idle Reduction Campaign* and *Green Cleaning Initiative* were successfully rolled out Department-wide.
- **Recycling:** Increased recycling collection at 43 Park facilities with the installation of 92 new recycling stations.

In preparation for development of the 2004 EMS, more than 100 staff members from throughout the Department attended meetings last fall to brainstorm ideas for future improvements to environmental performance. To view Parks 2004 EMS go to the Parks inweb.

EMS team members include **Duane Pentilla, Leila Wilke, Richard Gelb, Jodi Sinclair, Barb DeCaro, Jeff Lewis.**

Ken

ARC Support of 4- Stroke Engines

Many of us work with partner organizations and appreciate what they do to help our department. The Advisory Councils at Green Lake Small Craft Center and Mt. Baker Rowing & Sailing Center are role models of effective, forward thinking partners.

U.S. EPA passed regulations requiring outboard motor manufacturers and users to reduce emissions

and to increase the fuel efficiency of their engines. Although the final phase of implementation and compliance are a few years away, the Advisory Councils at Green Lake Small Craft Center and Mt. Baker Rowing & Sailing Center jointly raised money to purchase two new 4-stroke engines for the coach boats at each site. The department chipped in and bought two additional engines. Four-stroke engines cost more, however they get about 50% more gas mileage, are quieter, easier to start, save on oil & maintenance, and save money.

Two-stroke engines lose 20-30% of the fuel that passes through the combustion chamber. That means about 2-3 gallons out of every 10 gallons of gas is dumped into our waterways and air. Gasoline is poisonous and is harmful to living things, including humans. The Advisory Councils at Mt. Baker and Green

Lake are to be applauded for their initiative in moving Aquatics towards early compliance.



Peggy Tosdal demonstrates new fuel efficient engine

Task Force is Buggy about Environmental Stewardship

Community center school age coordinators, environmental learning center (ELC) naturalists, youth programs staff and environmental stewardship (ESU) staff worked collaboratively this spring to develop this summer's environmental stewardship program, "Buggin' Out!," for K-5 day camp. ELCs and community centers are among the major providers of school age programs in our department, but rarely have they had this type of opportunity to work together. Differences in work culture and perspectives were overcome by the larger goal to serve our city's children in a relevant, socially equitable manner. This summer, K-5 campers will learn about the nature of insects and the bug community through a wide variety of activities and field trips. An important focus will be how humans and bugs relate to each other in a city setting. Teams of naturalists will facilitate bug explorations for day campers at neighborhood community centers and at Camp Long,

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Task Force is Buggy about Environmental Stewardship

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Carkeek, Discovery Park, and Seward Park.

Many thanks to the Day Camp Environmental Stewardship Program Planning Task Force — **Cara Atchison, Willie Campbell, Kiesha Cannon, Hariana Chilstrom, Belinda Chin, Michael Figueroa, Christina Gallegos, Mychael Garrett-Small, Brian Gay, Marci Jaye, Sherry Mathers, Dan Moore, Ryan Nakanishi, Sean O’Feery, Jill Patterson, Anne Peterson, Bob Warner, Rachel Wander, Zach Wilson.**

Moving Mountains and Saving Resources

With a keen eye for opportunities and strong connections with contractors, **Chris Jewell** (PDD, Plans and Specifications Review Manager) has connected those with extra dirt with those who need dirt. His initiative has already resulted in a range of benefits to the department, the community and the environment.



Chris Jewell relaxes after a job well done

Chris anticipated dirt needs for Sand Point Athletic fields and knew that Children’s Hospital nearby was removing clean fill dirt from their project. He brokered an arrangement that has saved the department over \$160,000 for imported fill. This arrangement prevented almost 100 dump truck trips to Everett which saved 4,000 gallons of fuel and the associated hydrocarbon, CO2 and NO2 emissions.

To further reduce truck trips and save money, Chris has created procedures for stockpiling soil from other Parks’ projects for future use at Sand Point Athletic fields. So far, this effort has:

- kept 12,500 cubic yards of soil out of the waste stream
- reduced bid time and the cost of other Parks projects by about \$36,000
- reduced costs for imported Sand Point fill by \$100,000

For his next trick, Chris is looking ahead to Sound Transit’s tunnel and our need to fill in Jefferson Reservoir for a new park on Beacon Hill. Stay tuned — Chris may find a way to have someone else fill our reservoir and pay us \$250,000 for the privilege.

Way to go, Chris!

Unidentified man “christens” the new water-free urinal at Meadowbrook pool. Already in heavy use in public buildings throughout Seattle, this urinal will save up to 40,000 gallons of water per year.



Walking The Talk is published three times a year for the employees of Seattle Parks and Recreation. Our goal is to inspire us all by highlighting the people and programs that make Seattle Parks a leader in Environmental Stewardship. We welcome your input — please send us story ideas, kudos, anecdotes, and photos about activities you or co-workers are doing to help make our urban environment healthier. Ideas or questions? Contact us at parks@seattle.gov, or call Leila Wilke at 206/733-9707. Editor: Dewey Potter Writers: Leila Wilke, Dawn Blanch, Belinda Chin, Adam Cole

Conservation Confidential



Our gift shop is overrun with packing peanuts from shipments we have received. How can we get rid of them without throwing them in the garbage?

REDUCE

Well, first I would suggest asking those who are selling you things and shipping to you to use something other than peanuts when they ship. (The city recently required Gateway to ship computers to us in reusable, returnable containers.)

REUSE

More hassle, but taking the peanuts to a nearby Mailbox ETC or neighborhood mailing center, with their permission, would be good.

RECYCLE

If your shippers insist on peanuts, ask them to change to cornstarch or wheat starch peanuts, which dissolve in water.

Our pool has a lot of worn out plastic lounge chairs which we need to dispose of. Is there somewhere we can recycle them?

We use the Resource Venture to help solve commercial conservation and recycling problems. <http://www.resourceventure.org> This organization is funded by Seattle Public Utilities, located at the Greater Seattle Chamber, and maintains an extensive database of local recyclers for a variety of materials. We clicked on “Waste Prevention and Recycling” for plastic recyclers and found a Tacoma site that would take these pool chairs.

Golf Redefines “Birdie”

Andy Soden, Director of Golf for Seattle Parks, enjoys a challenge. In addition to striving to make Seattle’s five golf courses financially self-supporting, Andy has also committed these facilities to a sustainable future in an environmental sense. “Seattle’s golf courses are not only important to the people who love the game of golf and want these courses to remain in the city, but these open spaces are also home to some of Seattle’s most majestic wildlife and historic living creeks,” says Soden.

Rising to the challenge of a more sustainable future Golf has:

- Reduced pesticide use by over 20%
- Ensured clean water in creeks near golf courses
- Installed recycling containers throughout playing surfaces
- Eliminated irrigation of “the rough” reducing water use by 20%
- Installed long-lasting synthetic turf in many tee boxes and driving ranges

But Andy is most excited about our courses joining over 700 other golf properties in the US and Canada in being certified by Audubon International as an “Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” (ACSP) for nature and wildlife. Through this program, Audubon staff will work with Seattle Parks to complete more:

- **Environmental planning** with local residents and organizations
- **Wildlife habitat projects** to promote biodiversity
- **Water quality protection** programs through best management practices.
- **Energy conservation** improvements
- **Outreach and education** ensuring great stewardship continues into the future.

Andy can be found walking the talk in our Horticulture building, or at one of the courses he and others call home.